

Meeting Notes

Mapping & Assessment Subcommittee Governor's Forest Health Advisory and Oversight Councils (<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>)

**Tuesday, February 8, 2005, 9:30 a.m.
Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office Conference Room
2324 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ**

Present:

Barron Orr, University of Arizona (M&A Subcommittee Co-Chair)
Gene Trobia, ASLD, State Cartographers Office
Jayson Coil, Sedona Fire District
Ed Paul, Tonto National Forest
Carolyn Williams, Tonto National Forest
Susan Gorman, Tonto National Forest
Marc Kaplan, Coronado National Forest
Glen Buettner, ASLD, State Cartographers Office
Robb Beery, Payson Fire Department
Cliff Pearlberg, ASLD, Forestry
Jeff Whitham, Yavapai County GIS
Don VanDriel, Tonto National Forest

Contributions via e-mail:

Karl Siderits, USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region

Summary of Agenda:

1. Welcome
2. Report on feedback from Forest Health Councils (from their Jan. 13, 2005 meeting)
3. Discussion on need for sustained institutional support for mapping/data management for Arizona forest health
4. Status of Arizona FIRE MAP – Phase 1.
5. Discussion on data collection needs for Arizona FIRE MAP
6. Arizona FIRE MAP tentative schedule
7. Other business.
8. Next meeting.

Minutes:

1. **Call to Order** (Barron Orr called the meeting to order at 9:35 am)
2. **Report on feedback from Forest Health Councils (from their Jan. 13, 2005 meeting)**
 - a. All M&A recommendations submitted to the Advisory and Oversight Councils were accepted
 - b. Final specifics on grant and data recommendations are being worked out by the State Forester with guidance from the Councils).

CHAIR & CO-CHAIRS

Barron Orr – University of Arizona
Gene Trobia – Arizona State Land Department, State Cartographers Office
Don VanDriel – USDA Forest Service, Tonto National Forest
Jayson Coil – Sedona Fire District

- i. *M&ARecommendations.doc* this reflects our subcommittee, its structure and function (this will be placed on the FH Councils website)
 - ii. *Grant Recommendations - Draft.doc* M&A our suggestions to incorporate some M&A guidelines into the grants process
 - 1. **ACTION ITEM Glen Buettner and Gene Trobia (SCO), working with Kirk Rowdabaugh, State Forester are finalizing this document for the grants process**
 - iii. *Data Specifications Recommendations Draft .doc* M&A suggestions on specific data associated with the grant recommendations.
 - 1. **ACTION ITEM Glen Buettner, in relation to data needs of AZ FIRE MAP, is finalizing this document, which is essentially an attachment to the previous document (specific data guidelines)**
- 3. **Discussion on need for sustained institutional support for mapping/data management for Arizona forest health**
 - a. The issue of how Arizona forest health spatial and tabular data will be captured, managed and reported into the future was discussed in detail.
 - b. Reported that nationally focus may be pulling away from fuels treatments. It was reported that nationally, fuels treatments were zeroed out in the 2006 budget submission, and individually, the Forests are seeing 2005 cutbacks.
 - c. Strong feeling that longer term support in Arizona for fuels treatments mapping and attribute data must be identified
 - d. Reported that in 2004 this issue was part of language in Arizona forest health bills (and legislation?), and mentioned in at bills circulating in 2005.
 - e. Point was made that people are aware of how Geographic Information Systems can be valuable to Arizona's Forest Health concerns, but right now GIS stands for "Glen Information System"
 - i. Example – requests for maps of communities at risk and CWPP boundaries, status, etc.
 - ii. Example – request for a set of maps to support discussions with legislators (apparently Arizona discussions in Washington) on the issue of fuels treatments.
 - f. In order to meet the dynamic nature of Arizona forest health, a geospatial database and the infrastructure necessary to meet the demands of products and reports is necessary
 - i. Some suggested this could/should be the purview of a state foresters office (e.g., create a GIS / data management team within that office)
 - ii. Others indicated that something like this was either already proposed or was at least under consideration
 - iii. Others were concerned whether M&A should be specific in the "how" to do this, unless requested by FH Councils directly
 - iv. Conclusion – draw up rationale for the need for such institutional, on-going support
 - g. Rationale for such support was discussed, and many, many items were raised, including:
 - i. Fuels treatments data (across jurisdictions)
 - ii. Public safety (note the AZ 911 Office GIS standards issued Nov. 2004)
 - iii. Eventual mapping of fire risk

- iv. Management of CWPP data (planned treatments which are not necessarily part of any data set yet)
- v. Eventual goal of community and homeowner level data (e.g., Firewise Recognition planning)
- vi. There are even challenges with framework data – Marc Kaplan raised the example of recently working on a mapping project that required forest boundary data (seemingly, a straight-forward framework-like data layer). A map was made for the Coronado and all 5 themes (each from a different source) pulled in for this project showed different boundaries. 5 different sources had 5 different answers. This was just for a small project-not statewide.
- h. Recommendations
 - i. Gene Trobia made the motion that **we request support from the FH Councils and endorse funding / long term institutional support for the geospatial analysis and data management portion of the State Forester division budget (or whatever mechanism FH Council and the State Forester view as most appropriate).** Jayson Coil seconded the motion. During the discussion it was brought out that the elements that are associated with wildfire and we need to be able to integrate them. We are not responsible for all that data. Discussion was closed and the ***vote to pass the motion was unanimous.***
 - ii. **ACTION ITEM: all M&A folks present at today's meeting agreed to type up in more detail their rationale and send to Barron Orr, Gene Trobia and Glen Beuttner immediately so that Barron can raise issue at FH Council meeting Feb 10, 2005.**
 - iii. **ACTION ITEM: Barron to discuss with FH Councils how M&A should communicate this need; Gene to discuss same with State Forester**
 - iv. How does the Subcommittee help the state and the FH Councils understand that right now maps/underlying contextual data of a inter-jurisdictional nature concerning forest health parameters are not specifically the responsibility of any one group and there needs to be a larger commitment to getting better data. **ACTION ITEM: In anticipation that FH Councils will want written recommendations, prepare these ASAP and send to Barron and Gene.**

4. Arizona FIRE MAP Status Report

- a. Glen Buettner reviewed the status of fuels treatment spatial and tabular data integration and the database design and development process for Arizona FIRE MAP – Phase 1. Phase 1 focuses on creating a relational database of fuels treatments data that can be queried thematically (“Show me all prescribed burn treatments in XXX Project for 2004”) and spatially (by zooming in on an area of interest and filtering on specific parameters).
- b. Glen reported that AZ FIRE MAP is moving along slower than we would like. One of the big problems is getting the datasets.
- c. Glen is completing the final template of data bases tables (primarily treatments, projects, organizations), their specific fields, and the specific values for those fields. He presented examples in handout of the treatments and projects fields and explained that these would be finalized/delivered to programmers at UofA by Feb 11 (or Feb 15, latest).
 - i. **ACTION ITEM**

- d. Reaction to Glen's tables/fields was very positive. Members worked with Glen to refine the "Environmental Assessment" field (which had been requested by the FH Councils in their last meeting). After discussion, M&A members proposed values for this field to include "No – Not Applicable; Yes – Not Yet Started; Yes – Started; Yes – Completed."
- e. The percent completed field for multi-year projects was discussed. What value does the field hold – none when it is queried but when you look at a specific project? This would allow us to say a neighborhood is 60% complete. We want to make sure the fact that it is reported data. There will always be a contact person field so that we can always refer the questions.
- f. The question about treatment versus project polygons was brought up. AZ FIRE MAP Phase 1 is using an assemblage of treatment polygons associated with one project to determine the boundaries of a project (otherwise, this raises very serious vertical integration problems and there simply are not the resources for this level of data management in Phase 1).
- g. The question of "proposed treatments" came up. If these are included in a dataset provided to Arizona FIRE MAP, they will automatically be included, the same as actual treatments. If they are only conceptual but not part of a dataset (e.g., sketched on a map in a CWPP document, but not yet part of any data provider's dataset), there are no resources in AZ FIRE MAP Phase 1 to track and capture such data. (Another rationale for long-term institutional commitment.)
- h. Susan Gorman recommended Glen provide UA programmers an additional worksheet in the Excel file with the tables and fields for AZ FIRE MAP delineating/standardizing the values for all fields in the tables.

i. ACTION ITEM

5. Discussion on data collection needs for Arizona FIRE MAP

- a. Glen has been working with NFPORS data and received some data from Ed Paul. He needs more data sets (particularly from M&A participants) ASAP as the programmers at UofA require an as representative as possible integrated dataset in order to mock up the system. **(So – he needs our data, ASAP!)**

i. ACTION ITEM

- b. M&A members explained that budgetary processes, etc. were making it difficult to find the time to put together the data sets Glen has been requesting. They offered to try and make up for the delay by, as much as possible in each individual case, preparing their datasets according to Glen's template. They requested that Gene/Glen resend the State Forester letter which requested their assistance (originally sent in Fall 2004).

i. ACTION ITEM: Glen agreed to prepare template (standards much like what he is giving to UA). He will also place the standardized fields into an Excel spreadsheet as an example, and will do the same with an example shape file – he will circulate these to all members.

- ii. Several members asked about metadata, and in particular, georegistration issues
 - 1. Robb Berry indicated that many local providers tie data to "SoftCopy" quads obtained from the Forest Service
 - a. **ACTION ITEM: Robb agreed to send Glen an example ASAP**
 - 2. Gene discussed Height Modernization efforts as a future system to bring all datasets into a common geo-registration

3. Members agree that for the time being it was essential that basic metadata be submitted with these initial datasets with information on how they were registered.
- iii. **ACTION ITEM: Gene agreed to track down the State Forester letter and send this out to all members, timed with Glen's distribution of the template and sample files.**
 1. Glen will work with Ed Paul to ensure that effort with Forest Service is not redundant with his and Karl Siderits earlier efforts.
- iv. **GOAL: these will be issued by Tuesday, February 15.**
- v. **ACTION ITEM: M&A members agreed to try and have all datasets, in as close to proper format as possible, back to Glen by Thursday, February 24 (Tuesday, March 1 absolute latest)**
- vi. Glen will pursue data sets from other groups, but needs this preliminary data set to ensure that programmers are sent on the right track ASAP.
- c. Gene and Marc suggested that M&A would be a good sounding board for SCO to finalize the list (to be included in AZ FIRE MAP – Phase 1) of a) framework reference layers (e.g. roads) and b) contextual reference layers (e.g., CWPP boundaries)
 - i. **ACTION ITEM: Gene/Glen agreed to circulate a “candidates” list of a) framework reference layers, and b) contextual references layers – before the next M&A Meeting. Members agreed to comment on the proposed list.**

6. Arizona FIRE MAP tentative schedule

- a. UofA is mocking up the system. In anticipation of a) Glen's data structure templates/standards, and b) a normalized (integrated across our individual data sets) data set, AZ FIRE MAP team has put together a **tentative schedule**:
 - i. Feb 8 – Glen & Aaryn Olsson (UA programming lead) work out final details of AZ FIRE MAP database tables, fields, and values
 - ii. Feb 11 (Feb 15 latest) – Glen to provide UA programmers
 - iii. Feb 15 – Glen will have issued data templates, sample Excel and shape files to M&A meeting data providers and reissued State Forester support letter
 - iv. Feb 24 – Datasets coming in from M&A members, Glen will normalize
 - v. Mar 1 – absolute latest for M&A members to get their data in.
 - vi. Mar 1 – AZ Fire Map Feature Complete Mock-up Meeting, Tucson (UA and State Cartographer's Office (SCO))
 - vii. Mar 8 (Tues, 9:30am) -- M&A Meeting, Phoenix
 - viii. Mar 10 (Thurs) -- Forest Health Councils Meeting, Phoenix
 - ix. Apr 1 – Arizona Interagency Coordinating Group (AICG) Meeting: Statewide Collaboration on FY06 Proposed Fuel Mitigation Projects
 - x. Apr 5 – SCO will provide as much geospatial information as we have prepared to date to assist the AICG team in their work (using AZ FIRE MAP framework, contextual and fuels treatments datasets, but on a desktop GIS)
 - xi. Apr 8 (Fri, 9am) -- AZ FIRE MAP Functional Mock-up, Tucson (UA and SCO)
 - xii. Apr 12 (Tues) -- Tentative M&A Meeting, Phoenix
 - xiii. Apr 14 (Thurs) -- Forest Health Councils Meeting, Phoenix
 - xiv. Apr 22 (Fri) -- AZ FIRE MAP Core Lead Users Meeting, Phoenix (all)

xv. May 10 (Tues) -- Unveil AZ FIRE MAP to Oversight Committee and M&A Committee (all)

xvi. May 12 (Thurs) – Demo at Forest Health Councils Meeting, Phoenix

7. Other Business

- a. Cliff Pearlberg and Glen Beuttner proposed updating the State Fire Assistance Website where both the M&A and AZ FIRE MAP are concerned. This currently is at: <http://www.azstatefire.org/Assess/Assess.htm> -- which is managed by Cliff.
- b. Members agreed that all official documents should be stored as .pdf files on Governor's Forest Health Councils website (<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/Subcommittee.html>) with a link in from Cliff's website.
 - i. **ACTION ITEM: Barron agreed to provide a draft for a page for the Mapping & Assessment Committee and for Arizona FIRE MAP and circulate these to the working core of M&A.**
 - ii. **ACTION ITEM: Cliff agreed to update the site after the M&A helped Barron edit the text.**
- c. Website working group raised the need, ultimately, for fire-related websites impacting Arizona to work together.
- d. **ACTION ITEM: Gene offered to help the M&A understand future state plans. He will report on the Office of Fire and Life Safety and asked this to be made part of the next meeting agenda.**
- e. **ACTION ITEM: Members requested a status report on State Forester – SCO efforts to incorporate our grants-related mapping/data recommendations at the next M&A Meeting.**

8. Next Meeting

- a. We scheduled our next meeting for Tuesday, March 8, 2005 at 9:30am.
- b. Don VanDriel offered the use of the Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office Conference Room for this meeting
- c. Tonto National Forest Supervisor's Office is located at 2324 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix, AZ)